

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Attorney General's Office Receives National Fair Housing Award

(Phoenix, Ariz. – April 11, 2008) Attorney General Terry Goddard today announced that his Office's Civil Rights Division has received the highest honor given by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for outstanding programs addressing fair housing issues.

HUD's Blue Ribbon Award was presented Thursday to Melanie Pate, chief counsel of the Civil Rights Division, at the 2008 National Fair Housing Policy Conference in Atlanta.

The award was presented in recognition of Office's outreach and education efforts to the Hispanic community, resulting in a two-fold increase in complaints filed, as well as its leadership in attacking predatory lending and addressing building design issues that affect handicapped residents in Arizona.

"This is a particular honor because this year marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act," Goddard said. "I am proud of the work the Civil Rights Division employees do day in and day out to help Arizona residents. We are working toward the day when fair housing in Arizona is no longer a goal but a reality."

The Civil Rights Division has a cooperative agreement with HUD to investigate housing discrimination complaints in Arizona. The Division conciliates or litigates complaints in which it has found reasonable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred.

In addition to responding to complaints it receives, the Division actively works to prevent discriminatory activity through educational programs.

The Arizona Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on a person's disability, race, color, religion, sex, familial status or national origin. If you believe you are a victim of discrimination, please contact the Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Division, in Phoenix at 602-542-5263 or in Tucson at 520-628-6500. To file a complaint in person, the Attorney General's Office has 36 satellite offices throughout Arizona with volunteers available to help. Locations and hours of operation are posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.azag.gov.

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